

WOODWARD HOUSE  
(President's House)  
University of Alabama-  
Birmingham Industrial District  
4101 Altmont Road  
Birmingham  
Jefferson County  
Alabama

HABS No. AL-924

HABS  
ALA  
37-BIRM,  
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO  
WOODWARD HOUSE  
(President's House) University of Alabama  
Birmingham Industrial District  
4101 Altamont Road  
Birmingham  
Jefferson County  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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ADDENDUM TO  
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Location: 4101 Altamont Road, Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. The Woodward House is accessed from Altamont Parkway.

Ownership: University of Alabama at Birmingham

Date of Construction: 1919-1925

Architect/  
Planner: Reginald Johnson, California, Architect; George O. Miller, Boston, Landscape Planner

Project  
Information: This report is based upon written documentation donated to the Birmingham Historical Society, reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Significance: The principal residence of the owner of a major Birmingham producer of foundry iron, the estate is the most fully realized and intact example of estate architecture and landscape architecture in the District.

Description: The Woodward Estate consists of a large Italian Revival style stucco residence, guest house, servants buildings, gardens, terraces and drives set on a 36-acre knoll atop Red Mountain overlooking both Jones Valley to the north (in which the city of Birmingham lies) and Shades Valley to the south. The residence, designed by California architect Reginald Johnson contains 22 rooms. Boston landscape architect George Miller completed site planning for the estate and drives in 1914. World War I delayed construction as red ores located beneath the estate were mined for wartime use.

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Allen Harvey ("Rick") Woodward and his wife Annie Jemison built this estate as their family home. Woodward was Chairman of the Board of Woodward Iron Company, a major locally-based producer of foundry iron. His wife was sister to Robert Jemison, Jr., developer of the Altamont Parkway and the subdivision of Red Mountain in which the Woodward House was built, later known as Redmont. After a trip to the west coast, Woodward met and selected the architect for the venture. The Woodward and Swann Houses, also located in Redmont, are the most extensive, elaborate and inventive estates in the Birmingham District built in the 1920s.

## Sources Consulted

Erdreich, Ellen, "The Red Mountain Residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Woodward," The Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Vol. 7, No. 2, 1981, pp. 2-23.